

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 DPW-01 IO-03 CIAE-00

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O R 011055Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5418

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDWPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 13884

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY AS OF 1800 AUGUST 1, AND COVERS THE PERIOD SINCE THE LAST
SITREP JULY 30.

SUMMARY

1. 81ST AND 82ND ICCS PLENARIES AGREED ON REPORT ON PRISONERS AND ALSO ON COVERING LETTER TO TPJMC WHICH SAYS ICCS UNABLE PARTICIPATE IN PRISONER EXCHANGES UNTIL FOURTH PARTY PRESENT.
2. UNPRODUCTIVE FPJMT SESSION JULY 31 FAILED TO MAKE PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION ARTICLE 8B. DRV/PRG HAVE AGREED WITH SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR LIAISON FLIGHTS AS OUTLINED IN US DEL MEMORANDUM, AND FLIGHTS EXPECTED TO RESUME AUGUST 3.
3. GVN HAS DECIDED FORMATION OF MOBILE INVESTIGATION TEAMS NOT IN ITS BEST INTEREST AND PROPOSED INSTEAD TO CONCENTRATE ON DEPLOYMENT OF TPJMC TEAMS TO REGION AND SUB-REGION. PRG AGREED TO BRING ITS REPRESENTATIVES FROM REGIONS III, IV, AND VII TO SAIGON.
4. ACTIVITY IN MR 1 REMAINS LIGHT. NVA DEFECTOR COMPARES INFLATION IN HANOI AND DANANG. FIGHTING SLACKENED IN MR 3, WHERE COMMANDERS EXULTANT OVER WEEKEND VICTORY NEAR PHU GIAO. CIVILIAN TRAFFIC APPEARS NORMAL BETWEEN PHU GIAO AND PHU CUONG. ACTIVITY IN MR 4 CONTINUES AT RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL. IS SEEN TO BE TRYING TO LESSEN GVN PRESSURE IN SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA. GVN CLAIMS OF HAVING ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVES IN CHUONG THIEN REGARDED AS RATIONALIZATION FOR PAUSE IN OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PERHAPS TOO COSTLY.

PART I ICCS

1. THE FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS OF THE 81ST PLENARY MEETING ON JULY 30 WAS CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DETAINED CIVILIAN PERSONNEL. THE REPORT CONTAINED THREE POINTS: A) IT NOTED THAT NO ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE YET FOR THE ICCS TO VISIT POINTS OF LAST DETENTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL. B) IT DECLARED THAT FLIGHT REGULATIONS WHICH CAUSED THE HELICOPTERS TO LEAVE AN LOC AT 1700 ON JULY 23 HAVE BEEN CHANGED SO THEY WILL NOT OCCUR AGAIN. C) IT URGED THAT THE TPJMC RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF THE 20 STUDENT/INTELLECTUALS SOON. A LONG DISCUSSION FOLLOWED CONCERNING THE CONTENT OF THE COVERING LETTER TO THE TPJMC FOR THE REPORT. THE DECISION ON THE COVERING LETTER WAS POSTPONED UNTIL THE 82ND (SPECIAL) CONFIDENTIAL

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PLENARY SCHEDULED FOR 31 JULY.

2. THE PLENARY AUTHORIZED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO SIGN THE MAJOR SUPPORT CONTRACT WITH THE PA&E. ROUTINE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO FORWARD TWENTY-FOUR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS (THREE UNANIMOUS AND 21 DIFFERING VIEWS) TO THE TPJMC.
3. UNDER OTHER BUSINESS THE POLES MADE A MODERATE STATEMENT IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE CANADIAN PRESS RELEASE OF JULY 27, DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM THE RELEASE BECAUSE IT DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO HARMONY. THE UNGARIANS, HOWEVER, BLASTED THE RELEASE WITH A STATEMENT THAT IN MANY PARTS COPIED PRG PROPAGANDA. THE THUNDER SUBDUED AND THE SUN CAME OUT AND THE MEETING CLOSED WITH SEVERAL WARM

FAREWELL SPEECHES.

4. THE COVERING LETTER FOR THE REPORT ON PRISONERS BEING FORWARDED TO THE TPJMC WAS APPROVED IN THE 82ND PLENARY. THE LETTER IN ESSENCE SAYS THAT THE ICCS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PRISONER EXCHANGES UNTIL IT GAINS A FOURTH PARTY.

PART II FPJMT

1. JULY 31 FPJMT SESSION WAS UNPRODUCTIVE AS THE DELEGATIONS WERE NOT ABLE TO AGREE UPON AN AGENDA. WHILE THE PRG DELEGATION PROPOSED THAT DISCUSSION OF MODALITIES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 8B BE CONTINUED, USDEL, SUPPORTED BY THE RVN DELEGATION, TOOK THE POSITION THAT SOME PROGRESS SHOULD BE MADE IN AGREEING ON A SCHEDULE OF CASUALTY RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST BEFORE DISCUSSING MODALITIES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES. PRG DELEGATION, SUPPORTED BY THE DRV DELEGATION, REITERATED THE POSITION THAT TOTAL AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES MUST BE REACHED BEFORE CASUALTY RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES COULD BE DISCUSSED.

2. THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS HAVE ACCEPTED A USDEL MEMORANDUM OUTLINING SAFETY PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PASSENGERS USING THE SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHTS AND HAVE REPLIED BY MEMORANDUM THAT THEY AGREE WITH THESE SAFETY PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS. WE EXPECT LIAISON FLIGHTS WILL BE RESUMED ON AUGUST 3.

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PART III TPJMC

1. GVN HAS DECIDED THAT FORMATION OF MOBILE INVESTIGATION TEAMS WORKING OUT OF SAIGON IS NOT IN ITS BEST INTEREST AND PROPOSED DURING JULY 31 MEETING OF CHIEFS OF DELEGATIONS THAT TPJMC PURSUE INSTEAD QUESTION OF DEPLOYMENT TO REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL SITES. GVN PROPOSED THAT THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED IN PHASES: 1) PRG CALL IN REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE REGIONS TO SAIGON FOR INSTRUCTIONS, 2) RETURN THESE REPS TO REGIONS TO WORK OUT WITH GVN REGIONAL REPS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL TPJMC SITES, 3) SELECT AND DEPLOY TO SUB-REGIONAL SITES, AND 4) DETERMINE PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATIONS. THE PRG AGREED TO CALL IN ITS REPS FROM REGIONS III, IV, AND VII NOW AND FROM REGIONS V AND VI LATER. PRG REPS FROM REGIONS I AND II HAVE BEEN IN SAIGON FOR ALMOST A MONTH, BUT PRG WAS NOT YET WILLING TO DISCUSS TIMING OF THEIR RETURN TO HUE AND DANANG.

2. EMBOFF WAS ALSO TOLD THAT LTG DANG VAN QUANG, CHIEF OF THE CENTER FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CEASE-FIRE, HAD REASSURED PRG CHIEF OF DELEGATION THAT GVN STOOD BY THE 11 POINT PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS AGREED PREVIOUSLY AND WOULD NOT REOPEN THIS QUESTION AS WAS THREATENED FRIDAY BY BG PHAN HOA HEIP, DEPUTY CHIEF OF GVN/TPJMC.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5419

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACHTAI

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 SAIGON 13884

LIMDIS

PART IV DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY BLASTS US/GVN PERFORMANCE SINCE
JOINT COMMUNIQUE

THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN A JULY 31 STATEMENT,
CLAIMED THAT, WHILE THE US AND GVN HAD BEEN "COMPELLED" TO IMPLEMENT
A NUMBER OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE JOINT
COMMUNIQUE, "THEY HAVE BEEN DOING THEIR UTMOST TO COMMIT EXTREMELY
SERIOUS VIOLATIONS AND SABOTAGES" OF THOSE ACCORDS. THE STATEMENT
SCORED THE GVN FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE, FOR ITS
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FAILURE TO RELEASE "HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PATRIOTS" IN ITS
CUSTODY, AND FOR CONTINUING TO STIFLE "DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES." THE
US, FOR ITS PART, WAS CONDEMNED FOR ALLEGEDLY CONTINUING RECON-
NAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND FOR FAILING TO "CLEAR UP"

DEACTIVATED AND DUD MINES AND TO PROVIDE THE DRV WITH EQUIPMENT WITH WHICH TO SWEEP INLAND WATERWAYS; AS WELL AS FOR DELAYING THE SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS REFLECTING THE AGREED UPON POINTS IN THE JEC NEGOTIATIONS AND THUS EVADING ITS "OBLIGATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALING OF THE WOUNDS OF WAR" IN NORTH VIETNAM. FURTHERMORE, "THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE" AND THE DRV "ALWAYS RESPECT" LAOTIAN AND CAMBODIAN NEUTRALITY, WHEREAS THE US HAS "ENCOURAGED" THE RLG TO PROLONG NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LPF AND, "WHAT IS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS", HAS STEPPED UP THE BOMBING IN CAMBODIA AND EXTENDED MORE MILITARY AID TO THE GKR. THE STATEMENT ENDS WITH AN APPEAL TO "PEACE-AND JUSTICE-LOVING COUNTRIES" AND TO US "PROGRESSIVES" TO DEMAND US/GVN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT AND COMMUNIQUE.

PART V MR 1

1. I CORPS HEADQUARTERS BRIEFING REPORTED THIRTEEN CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS, EIGHT OF WHICH WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF). GVN CASUALTIES: SIX KIA, TWO MIA, 40 WIA; PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: SEVEN KIA.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLDV
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BDM PERSONS SAILED FROM THE DIEN THAI REFUGEE CAMPS (VICINITY YD7834) TO THE PRG CONTROLLED AREA OF NORTHERN QUANG TRI. THE FAMILIES, WHO WERE NATIVES OF GIO HAI VILLAGE IN GIO LINH DISTRICT, QUANG TRI, USED TWO MOTORIZED SAMPANS IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JULY 26. TWO MORE BOATS BOUND FOR PRG TERRITORY WERE REPORTEDLY INTERCEPTED LEAVING DANANG BAY AND RETURNED BY GVN PATROL VESSELS.
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3. GVN TROOPS DISPERSED A
GROUP OF SOME 200 CIVILIANS DESIRING TO ENTER THE AO OF THE 120 REGIONAL FORCES BATTALION IN QUANG TRI. THE TOC LOG CLAIMS THAT THE GROUP HAD BEEN INCITED BY COMMUNIST CADRES TO TRY TO VISIT FAMILY GRAVES IN THE AREA.

4. AN NVA DEFECTOR HAS PROVIDED A COMPARISON BETWEEN SOME KEY FOOD PRICES AND INFLATION IN HANOI AND IN DANANG FROM 1971 TO 1973 (PRICES ARE IN 1973 SVN PIASTERS WITH 1 NVN PIASTER EQUAL TO 100 SVN PIASTERS):

1971	1973	PERCENT INCREASE
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HANOI: DOMESTIC RICE/100 KG	12000	16000	33 PERCENT
PORK/KG	600	900	50 PERCENT
CHICKEN/KG	400	700	75 PERCENT

DANANG: DELTA RICE/100 KG	4900	10000	50 PERCENT
PORK/KG	771	1100	43 PERCENT
CHICKEN/KG	400	700	75 PERCENT

THE DEFECTOR NOTED THAT NVA TROOPS AND CIVIL SERVANTS BOUGHT IMPORTED RICE AT A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED PRICE OF 47 NVN PIASTERS PER HUNDRED KILOS.

PART VI MR 2

1. THERE WERE 20 REPORTED INCIDENTS IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS, 15 ABF, FOUR MINE INCIDENTS AND ONE GROUND ATTACK. AIR STRIKES IN KONTUM AND BINH DINH CONTINUED TO BE HEAVY. CASUALTIES DECREASED ON BOTH SIDES: VC/NVA: 22 KIA; RVNAF: FOUR KIA, 22 WIA (PLUS TWO CIVILIANS) AND ONE MIA.

2. THE LONE GROUND ATTACK OF THIS REPORTING PERIOD TOOK PLACE JULY 30 IN QUANG DUC, WHEN AN RF BATTALION EAST OF BU PRANG WAS SHELLED AND THEN ATTACKED BY A COMPANY OF VC. THE RF KILLED EIGHT OF THE ENEMY, AND THEMSELVES SUFFERED ONE KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED. WE SUSPECT THAT THE RVNAF, WHICH HAS BEEN PUSHED OUT OF THIS "OLD BU PRANG" AREA OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS HAD SENT THIS PATROL TOO NEAR AN AREA OF ENEMY SENSITIVITY, I.E., THE JUNCTION OF THE ENEMY SUPPLY

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ROAD WHICH PARALLELS THE CAMBODIAN BORDER TO THE WEST AND QUANG DUC'S ROUTE 309.

PART VII MR 3

1. FIGHTING SLACKED OFF NOTICEABLY IN MR 3 DURING 48 HOURS ENDING 0800 AUGUST 1. MR 3 G2 REPORTED 43 CLASHES, OF WHICH 14 WERE GROUND CONTACTS AND 16 ABF. GVN LOST 11 KILLED (FOUR CIVILIANS) AND 33 WOUNDED (THREE CIVILIANS). REPORTED COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE 13 KIA AND ONE VC SUPPLIER ARRESTED IN TAY NINH.

2. FOLLOWING ARVN 18TH DIV'S RESOUNDING DEFEAT OF NVA 165TH RGT BELOW PHU GIAO OVER THE WEEKEND, BOTH PHU GIAO AND LAI KHE-BEN CAT AREAS OF BINH DUONG HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET OVER LAST 48 HOURS. ROAD BETWEEN PHU CUONG AND PHU GIAO WAS OPEN SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 28 ALTHOUGH THE FIRST ARVN CONVOY TRAVELLING NORTH WAS AMBUSHED BRIEFLY. THERE HAVE BEEN BRIEF CUTS IN THIS ROUTE IN PAST FEW DAYS, BUT CIVILIAN TRAFFIC WAS EVIDENTLY MOVING NORMALLY ON JULY 31. MR 3 COMMANDERS WERE ALL ELATED ABOUT 18TH'S BIG WIN, BUT THEY ADMITTED THAT PLANS NOT YET COMPLETE FOR CONVOY TO PHUOC BINH-SONG BE AREA THROUGH MR 2, OR FOR FURTHER EFFORTS TO OPEN 1A BETWEEN PHU GIAO AND DONG XOAI.

3. ICCS REGION V AND SUBREGIONAL TEAMS HAVE BEEN DOING NOTHING SINCE CANADIANS LEFT. THROUGHOUT REGION, OLD INDODELS ARE TURNING OVER THEIR JOBS TO THEIR NEWLY ARRIVED REPLACEMENTS; ORDERLY TURNOVER, INCLUDING A WEEK OR TWO OVERLAP BETWEEN TWO TRANCHES, HAS EXCITED ADMIRATION AND ENVY OF CONGEN AND TDY FSO'S HERE.

4. AMERICAN VISITORS TO TAY NINH-SVAY RIENG BORDER POINT ALONG HIGHWAY 1 JULY 29 NOTICED THAT CAMBODIAN SIDE OF BORDER IS VIRTUALLY ABANDONED. VISITORS ALSO FOUND SOME TRADE STILL TAKING PLACE AT

NOTE BY OC/T: SAIGON 13884 1/3. PART V - PARA 2. # OMISSION.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 SAIGON 13884

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

BEN SOI. TAY NINH PROVINCE AUTHORITIES CLAIM THAT OF 566 "SHADOW SUPPLIERS" ARRESTED DURING JULY, NO LESS THAN 291 ARE VCI (MOSTLY C CATEGORY), INDICATING THAT COMMUNISTS ARE NOT RELYING ON SIMPLE AVARICE OF AVERAGE VIETNAMESE CITIZEN TO MAINTAIN FLOW OF TRADE. LONG KHANH PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD CONSUL JULY 30 THAT NUNG AND CHINESE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNITIES IN HAM THUAN VILLAGE ARE TRADING WITH COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE WILLING TO PAY HIGH PRICES, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY ARE SHORT OF FOOD. HE SAID HE HAS INSERTED FORCES BETWEEN HAM THUAN AND COMMUNIST BASE CAMP TO NORTH-NORTHEAST TO PREVENT TRADING.

5. WORK CONTINUES ON NATIONAL RAILROAD EAST OF XUAN LOC, WITH PROTECTING 64TH RANGERS RECEIVING FREQUENT COMMUNIST MORTAR FIRE. PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD CONSUL PEOPLE ARE HAPPY WITH RAILROAD FROM XUAN LOC TO BIEN HOA AND SAIGON, BUT THAT HE COULD PROTECT REPAIRMAN EAST OF XUAN LOC AND EXTEND SECURITY ON RAILROAD TO BINH TUY BORDER ONLY IF HE RECEIVED ADDITIONAL RANGER BATTALION HE HAS REQUESTED. 18TH DIV CG BG DAO, ASKED HIS MILITARY OPINION OF RAILROAD-CLEARING OPERATION JULY 31, EMPHATICALLY TURNED THUMBS DOWN. LONG KHANH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER HAS HEARD THAT VC ARE URGING PEOPLE WHO OWN LAND UP TO 3 KMS ON EITHER SIDE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY 20 BETWEEN LOI TON HAMLET TO PHUONG LAM VILLAGE, TO REGISTER IT WITH PRG. LANDOWNERS INVOLVED ARE SAID TO BE COMPLYING.

PART VIII MR 4

1. MR 4 MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME RELATIVELY HIGH LEVELS AS THE LAST WEEK OF JULY, WITH 42 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED JULY 30, TO INCLUDE 32 ABF, 9 HARASSMENTS, AND ONE TERRORIST INCIDENT. OF THE 42, 20 WERE IN CHUONG THIEN. 4 CORPS REPORTS 17 TROOPS KILLED, 80 WOUNDED, AND ONE MISSING AND CLAIMS 42 VC KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED. THE 4 CORPS BRIEFING ON AUGUST 1, COVERING JULY 31, WAS CANCELLED.

2. CHUONG THIEN 21ST ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER BGEN LE VAN HUNG SAID IN A JULY 31 DAN CHU NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW THE GVN OBJECTIVES IN CHUONG THIEN HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. HUNG STATED THAT HIS TROOPS HAVE JUST FINISHED PUSHING COMMUNIST FORCES OUT OF ALL THE CHUONG THIEN AREAS THEY HAD TAKEN AFTER THE JANUARY CEASE-FIRE AND PUSHED THEM BACK INTO THE U MINH FOREST. (COXZENT: HUNG'S ANNOUNCEMENT, THE GIST OF WHICH WE ALSO HEARD JULY 29 FROM A 21ST DIVISION REGIMENTAL COMMANDER, SIGNALS, IN OUR OPINION, AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN GVN STRATEGY. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, CREDIT GVN CLAIMS OF SUCCESS. WE ESTIMATE THAT THE GVN HAVING SUFFERED OVERALL HEAVY CASUALTIES AND SEVERAL BLISTERING DEFEATS IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO CHALLENGE VC/NVA POST-CEASE-FIRE ENCROACHMENTS, HAS DECIDED TO CALL OFF OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING. CONFIDENTIAL

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END COMMENT.)

3. THE CHUONG THIEN PROV REP REPORTS SEVERAL MORTAR INCIDENTS JULY 27 - 29 AT KIEN THIEN DISTRICT COMPOUND AND LONG MY DISTRICT TOWN, IN BOTH CASES AIMED AT GVN GUN EMPLACEMENTS, AND AT VI THANH AIRFIELD ON JULY 29. THREE SHELLINGS FOLLOWED BY GROUND ASSAULTS WERE REPORTED BY THE PROVINCE ON JULY 30. THERE WERE TWO HEAVY VC GROUND ATTACKS THE NIGHT OF JULY 30 - 31, ONE AT THUY LIEU HDQTRS, KIEN HUNG DISTRICT. THE THUY LIEU ATTACK WAS THE THIRD SUCH VC ATTACK SINCE CEASE-FIRE I IN AN AREA FORMERLY PREDOMINATLY UNDER GVN CONTROL. SINCE JANUARY, ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE VILLAGE POPULATION HAS LEFT THE AREA - PERHAPS ONE-THIRD TO VC AREAS.

4. THE CHAU DOC VICE CONSUL REPORTS CONTINUING MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA. ALL VC ACTIVITY, INCLUDING THREE MORTARING INCIDENTS ON JULY 30, APPEARS AIMED AT LESSENING GVN PRESSURE AT GIAI AND COTO MOUNTAINS AND AT SHEILDING INCREASED INFILTRATION FROM O MOUNTAIN IN CAMBODIA TO THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA. POSSIBLY OVER 100 NEW INFILTRATORS HAVE ENTERED THE AREA IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS.

5. THE VINH BINH PROV REP REPORTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF VC ACTIVITY SINCE CEASE-FIRE II, WITH 30 INCIDENTS REPORTED DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 22 - 28. THE NEWLY TRAINED 473 RF BATTALION WAS SEVERLY DEFEATED IN AN OPERATION IN THIEU CAN DISTRICT ON JULY 27, WITH SOME 50 CASUALTIES. POOR LEADERSHIP AND PLANNING WERE CLEARLY INVOLVED: ALTHOUGH KNOWN TO BE COMPROMISED FROM A PREVIOUS OPERATION, THE PROVINCIAL RADIO CODE HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED. THE PROVINCIAL GUNSHIPS WERE ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE. REPORTEDLY, MOST OF THE BATTALION LOST ITS WEAPONS WHEN IT SCATTERED. THE PROV REP REPORTS A BELIEF AMONG THE SOLDIERS THAT, IF THEY ABANDON THEIR WEAPONS WHEN THEY RUN, THE VC WILL NOT TAKE THEM PRISONER. MARTIN

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JEC PARIS
VIENTIANE

WARSAW
DANANG
NHA TRANG
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON AOSOP-OR
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